

## MINUTES

Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center  
325 Public Street, Providence, RI 02905  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 2, 2015

Present: Herb Cummings, Keith Oliveira, Lela Morgan, Kenneth Bright, Michelle Curreri, Kas DeCarvalho

Also Present: Dennis Littky, Nancy Diaz Bain, Lucas Lussier

8:10 AM meeting called to order by Keith Oliveira.

- Motion by Keith Oliveira and seconded by Lela Morgan to approve the September 17, 2015 minutes.  
All those in favor: 6; opposed: 0; abstain: 0.

### Discussion Regarding Status of the Budget

- The Met has \$344,000 in unpaid tuition from 10 districts. Objecting districts include Chariho, Foster/Gloster, and Tiverton, none of whom have responded to request for payment. Pawtucket and other districts are asking the Met to provide proof of residency before paying, or refuse to pay because a student exits after the billing date but is enrolled on billing date.

Local tuition law states that if the district does not pay the state can take the money out and give it to the Met. The Met is in the middle of this process now.

The per-student price belongs to the student, not the school. It follows the student.

- The majority of Met cash and investments is managed by one facility but held in over 25 different banks so that all deposits are FDIC protected. Lucas Lussier and Dennis Littky are currently working on looking into spreading the money out more. Lucas will have more information on this by the February meeting (action item).

### Discussion Regarding the Funding Formula/Advocacy

- Kas DeCarvalho reported on the significant goal for the Met around the Funding Formula talks: make certain the state of Rhode Island understands the need of CTE overall.

There is significant data from other states that understand the need for this alternate way of educating kids by increasing the amount CTE schools are funded. 39 states have 30% more going to CTE, including Massachusetts with

34% more. The current Funding Formula will shut Davies down. There will be a significant reaction to that.

Secondly, we need to have the discussion that sending districts have their own CTE programs, although limited to specific areas such as culinary or automotive. In the current legislation, if a sending district has a CTE program similar to another district, the sending district can tell their student that he or she can't go (to the Met) because they have their own CTE. Something needs to be decided regarding the programs that already exist, and as a sub category of that issue, some regional districts such as CHARIHO receive students from other districts into their CTE program and invoice those districts for \$25,000 in tuition per pupil per year.

Finally, if the state determines CTE is a critical part of education, we have to argue that we need additional funds to run the program. It is established that CTE is expensive. The Met program has different reasons from Davies that the funding is expensive, but neither cost 25,000 per student.

Kas plans to explain these points to get them onto the record so they can be discussed as part of the decision. In the meantime, there is a need to continue to lobby the governor's office.

#### Discussion Regarding PARCC Results

- PARCC is a new national common core test. Some schools change entire curriculum to look like the test. The Met doesn't. When there is a transition to a new assessment, results drop off. This is a baseline year. There are some presentation challenges, i.e., the test is computerized, both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders are tested twice a year instead of the previous NECAP testing only grade 11, and opt-outers skew the data which makes it unreliable.

Standardized tests don't tell you much other than how one school compares to other schools. It doesn't measure growth. A test that measures growth and can show where the student started from is a more accurate assessment.

#### Met in the News

- The mayor reached out to visit the Met. He is interested in the model and what we do including summer learning (internships).
- The Met has been named 1 out of 13 most innovative schools in the world by *Tech Insider*.
- Sherente, a student whom you met at the last Board meeting, was the subject of a magazine article/cover story about his Narragansett culture.

- A Met after school program was featured on channel 6 showing students learning about being green and environmentally aware and painting a mural.
- The MET 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party on May 21<sup>st</sup> will be an all day event that includes alumni during the day, evening events with dignitaries, a review of the past 20 years, and a torch ceremony at WaterFire.
- The Met Entrepreneur of the Year has been selected: Carol Rafaelian of Alex & Ani. Carol, along with Ty Law and Jessie Sutman will be honored in the spring.

9:31 AM meeting adjourned.